

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 PM-03 L-02

IO-03 EUR-10 INRE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 DPW-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 RSR-01 /071 W

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O R 241031Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5034

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CDR USSAG NKP TRAFB

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13361

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TPJMC: RETURN OF PRISONERS: UPDATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. SAIGON 13282/231115Z JUL 73

B. SAIGON 13286/231400Z JUL 73

1. TPJMC STAFF OFFICER OF GVN DEL INFORMED EMBOFF THAT REPORTS NOW SHOW THAT GVN RELEASED 600 CIVILIAN DETAINEES AT LOC NINH JULY 23. OF THESE, 43 REFUSED TO GO TO THE PRG AND WERE RETURNED TO SAIGON. TPJMC OFFICER DID NOT BELIEVE THAT RALLIERS WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO JAIL, BUT THOUGHT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ENROLLED IN THE REGULAR VHIEU HOI PROGRAM. THE CHIEU HOI SERVICE PROVIDES A TWO-WEEK TRAINING COURSE WHICH INCLUDES 60 HOURS OF POLITICAL IN-DOCTRINATION FOR EACH HOI CHANH.

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2. PRELIMINARY FIGURES FROM THE GVN DEL TPJMC SHOW THE GVN RETURNING ANOTHER 225 CIVILIANS TO THE PRG AT LOC NINH TODAY (JULY 24) WITH NONE OPTING TO RETURN TO SAIGON. THE RETURN OF THE GVN-HELD DETAINEES WAS MARKED BY A DEMONSTRATION THAT OCCURRED AT 1350 AT THE RELEASE SITE. THE CROWD OF ABOUT 300 PRG MEMBERS DEMANDED THAT THE GVN TURN OVER ALL PRISONERS TO THE PRG AND NOT ALLOW ANY TO RETURN TO SAIGON. FURTHER RELEASE OF PRISONERS WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE DAY AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION BEGAN. THE GVN DEL IMMEDIATELY TOOK UP THIS VIOLATION OF THE RETURN PROCEDURES IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF TODAY'S MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATION OF THE TPJMC.

3. AS FAR AS THE TPJMC OFFICER KNOWS, TRAN NGOC CHAU AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES WERE NOT RETURNED TO THE PRG YESTERDAY.

(GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN BUI BAO TRUC ANNOUNCED THAT CHAU AND OTHERS WOULD BE RETURNED JULY 23 AT MORNING PRESS BRIEFING, BUT CORRECTED HIMSELF DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION - SEE REF B.) RPJMC SOURCE SAID THEY WOULD BE MOVED TO RELEASE SITE TOWARD THE END OF THIS WEE.

4. ON JULY 24, THE PRG RETURNED TO GVN CONTROL AT THIEN NGON (TAY NINH) 26 OF THE SCHEDULED 28 CIVILIANS. THE PRG REPS SAID THE TWO MISSING INDIVIDUALS HAD ALREADY "ESCAPED." THE RETURN OF PRG-HELD PRISONERS SCHEDULED FOR QUANG NAM AND QUANG TIN (TAM KY) WAS POSTPONED WHEN ENGINE TROUBLE FORCED CANCELLATION OF THE TPJMC TEAM'S FLIGHT TO DANANG.

5. ICCS INFORMS US THAT IT WILL COVER RELEASE OF PRG-HELD PRISONERS TO GVN (SEE PARA 1-C, REF B) IF IT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PRG SAFETY GUARANTEES WHICH ARE BEING GIVEN ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. ICCS ALSO TELLS US THAT IT SUSPENDED THE LOC NINH OPERATION AT 1700 ON JULY 23 ONLY BECAUSE THE AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER CARRYING THE ICCS PERSONNEL BACK TO SAIGON HAD TO RETURN BEFORE DARK.

MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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